

# Happy Holidays!

# Chieftain

YEARS  
**50**

VOLUME 54, NUMBER 3

ITAWAMBA COMMUNITY COLLEGE

DECEMBER 9, 2024

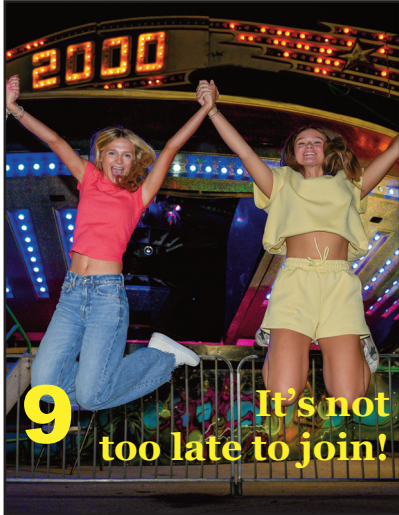


**It's the most wonderful time of the year!**

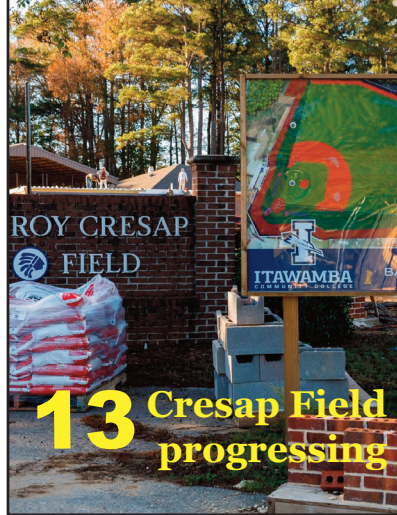
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VIEWPOINT  
EMILY WILLIAMS  
Chieftain Editor, 2012

How will you spend  
four weeks?

*"Frosty the Snowman was a jolly happy soul with a corncob pipe and a button nose and two eyes made out of coal..."*

If you are like me, those lines have already begun to greet you in your car, in shopping centers and in your own home, which can only mean one thing: we have reached the end of yet another year.

Whether we wish it or not, the school semester is winding down, and the holiday season is running full force. We will soon confront final exams, and then we will leave our beloved Itawamba Community College for a four-week hiatus.

You have helped to make this a wonderful semester, and I hope to see many of you back at ICC in the coming year. For those of you who will be graduating or transferring to other schools soon, I wish you the best of luck.

May you take the lessons and memories this college has given you with you through the rest of your lives. To all of our readers, I hope that God blesses you throughout this holiday season and into the new year.

As a parting Christmas gift, please allow me to leave you with some valuable advice from the rest of Gene Autry's beloved classic (feel free to sing along)

*"Frosty the Snowman is a fairy tale they say. He was made of snow, but the children know how he came to life one day..."*

Take some time this season to appreciate the magic of the holidays.

When I took physical science during my freshman year, my teacher, Mr. Swanson, would often entertain our class with stories of his young children. One day he expressed his fascination with their ability to wonder at the world around them. Even in aspects of life that we adults considered mundane, his boys found awe and amazement. Mr. Swanson then put this question to us, "Why do we seem to have lost this trait? Certainly we derive more joy from the world when we can wonder at its many beauties and mysteries, so why do we neglect to do that? He challenged us to attempt to regain that perception, and now I encourage you to accept that challenge.

Remember how the holidays were such a wonderful, breathtaking time for us when we were younger? Many of us would begin counting down the days to Christmas sometime in July. This year, try to recapture part of that excitement.

Christmas lights adorn hundreds of edifices, floats and bands parade down avenues to celebrate the season, friends and families reunite to renew old bonds and traditions - amazing sights and sounds grace every street corner and living room this month, so absorb them.

Step back and wonder at life's treasures.

*"Frosty the Snowman knew the sun was hot that day. So he said let's run and we'll have some fun now before I melt away..." - See The next two weeks, page four.*

OPINION  
POLL

“  
What  
is the  
best  
advice  
you  
would  
give  
yourself?  
”

Sydney Barber  
Chieftain Staff

*"Don't stress." - Juliana Nguyen, freshman, Tupelo*

*"Don't take life too seriously. It's okay to make mistakes and let things go" - Brady Edington, freshman, Vardaman*

*"Don't judge anyone before you get to know them." - Kimble Clouse, freshman, Houston*

*"Don't stress over things too much." - Charlie Ann Spradling, freshman, Bruce*

*"Your worst is someone's best." - Michael Tovar, sophomore, Bruce*

*"Do everything 100 percent." - Knox Watterer, sophomore, Tupelo*

*"Stay on top of everything! Time goes by very fast, and your future self needs you." - Laniyah Hill, freshman, Tupelo*

*"As long as you've got God, you've got everything you need." - Ethan Bailey, freshman, Winona*

*"Not focus on school so much and plan out time to hang out with friends more." - Shelby Morgan, freshman, Starkville*

*"Focus on what's ahead rather than what's happened in the past." - Sawyer Ritchie, freshman, Pontotoc*

*"Stay ahead of your work. Don't let it pile up." - Anna Reid Crane, freshman, Pontotoc*

VIEWPOINT  
SHELBY FRANKS  
Chieftain Staff

Christmas...  
It's time for...

In a few days, the 2024 fall semester will be over. No more exams. Grades will be recorded.

That means that Christmas is just around the corner.

It's a time to bask in the holiday joy and spend time with friends and family.

Christmas is one of my favorite times of the year. I've been reflecting on the past holiday seasons that I have spent decorating, shopping for gifts, attending family gatherings and Christmas parties.

While we begin our preparations for this holiday season, we should consider the families who are less fortunate.

Many of us take for granted what we receive during the Christmas season.

However, it seems that everywhere I turn, there are more and more individuals stressed about what they need to buy for their family.



Not everyone has the luxury of worrying about what new toy is popular for their children.

There are families who are struggling to get by and can't afford to buy gifts and presents. They are doing their best to provide food for their family and pay the rent.

This is why I participate in the Samaritan's Purse Operation Christmas Child Shoeboxes.

Operation Christmas Child delivers shoeboxes filled with all kinds of goodies to children who are in need all around the world. It is such a delight for me to go shopping for a little girl or boy that I know is going to receive my box.

This is not only my tradition, but it's one that my mother and I have started doing every year. We always pick a different age range for some variety among the gifts, and filling the shoe box with little toys and items brings me so much joy giving back to the less fortunate. We have no idea what they go through on a daily basis. It's our opportunity to remember that blessings indeed are wrapped in a small shoe box.

I encourage you to take part in Operation Christmas Child as well as other opportunities to share the joy of the holidays.

Among those are...a smile to a stranger...holding the door open for the person behind you...or carrying groceries for your neighbor are simple blessings that could brighten someone's day as well as yours.

While the holidays can be a source of light for some people, many individuals can feel a nostalgic sadness. They could be dealing with grief from a lost loved one, a lost job or just aren't able to celebrate with their family. Join me in showing kindness to all we meet.

While dealing with the end-of-the-year stress, we tend to look past what matters most. All of our material possessions are temporary, but memories last a lifetime. After finals and studying are over, take your few weeks of free time to enjoy the moment and to spend time with those you cherish the most.

Happy Holidays, everyone!!

Chieftain 50

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Lee Adams  
Caroline Mason

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Cal Brown

The Chieftain is available online only and is posted three times each semester.

Views expressed in this newspaper are not necessarily those of the faculty and administration.

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## Faculty SPOTLIGHT

### BRIAN TOLLISON

*Instructor, Spanish*

**FAMILY:** Married to Rachel Tollison for eight years; daughter, Cailin, age 2 1/2

**EDUCATION:** Both bachelor's (history and Spanish) and master's (Spanish) degrees, Mississippi State University

**WHAT DO YOU CURRENTLY TEACH OR HAVE TAUGHT:** Currently teaching Spanish I-IV

**TEACHING EXPERIENCE:** Taught Spanish at Mississippi State University for 2 1/2 years; began teaching at ICC in 2018, but full-time beginning in 2023

**POSITIVE ASPECTS OF TEACHING:** "I love the student aspect of it."

**NEGATIVE ASPECTS OF TEACHING:** "Students who do not try; students who struggle but put in effort are fine."

**ADVICE TO STUDENTS:** "Do the work. Never let anything stop you in life."

**FUN FACT:** Speaks a little Mandarin

SHARLEE SHUMPERT  
*Chieftain Staff*

## ICC sets 2025 spring open registration

*Staff Reports*

Itawamba Community College has scheduled open registration for the 2025 spring semester.

Options include January 6-10 during regular business hours (8 a.m.-4:30 p.m.) at both the Fulton and Tupelo campuses. Locations are the Academic and Student Center on the Tupelo Campus and the David C. Cole Student Services Building on the Fulton Campus.

Traditional full-term day and night and first eight-week classes begin Jan. 13; and eLearning and full-term and first eight-week classes, Jan. 21.

Financial aid is available, as well as adult learner scholarships.

Academic, career education, eLearning (online) and workforce opportunities are available in an extensive schedule, which includes both day and evening classes at Fulton, Tupelo and Belden. Instructional options include both face-to-face and online. Students may attend classes on a four-day instructional schedule to provide an opportunity for a three-day weekend.

For more information, call (662) 862-8000 or email eadviser@iccms.edu. ICC's offices will close for the Christmas break, Dec. 17, at noon, and reopen Jan. 6, 2025 at 8 a.m.



**Itawamba Community College students now have an opportunity to use a net price calculator to ensure that they understand the cost to attend, which is one of the lowest in the state and that it is an affordable option.**

## Net price calculator helps understand paying for college

*Staff Reports*

Itawamba Community College has launched a new and improved net price calculator to ensure that all students understand the cost to attend and especially that it is an affordable option, according to Terry Bland, director of Financial Aid.

### WHAT IS THE CALCULATOR?

The College Cost Transparency Initiative - a task force composed of the leaders of 10 higher education have voluntarily committed to follow a set of principles and standards that ensure transparency, clarity and understanding around communicating student financial aid offers, Bland said. Together, these institutions serve more than 2.8 million college students in the United States.

"Itawamba Community College is excited about this opportunity to demonstrate our affordability to prospective students," said ICC President Dr. Jay Allen. "Our cost is approximately one-third that of a uni-

versity, our annual tuition is significantly among the lowest of Mississippi's 15 independently governed two-year institutions and our scholarship program is one of the best in the state." In addition, ICC continues to offer guaranteed tuition to every high school graduate each year in its five-county district.

Bland said that he is excited to show students and families the generous aid provided by ICC. "Meadow Price, our new NPC, was designed to be mobile first and student friendly. We want to make it easy for students to understand the aid and scholarships that are available at Itawamba Community College and to be able to compare our costs to universities and other community colleges. This NPC enables us to do that."

### HOW DOES IT WORK?

Developed by Columbia University graduates, Meadow enables any current or prospective student to obtain a personalized

price estimate in under 5 minutes. Cofounder Alfredo Brillembourg says the goal is to clarify and simplify the student financial experience as a whole. "As recent graduates ourselves, we realize that the finances of higher education are as complicated and cumbersome as they are expensive, and that complexity poses an equal barrier to access for students.

"With its ease of use, the platform calculates how much financial aid a specific student would receive and how much they would need to pay out of pocket," Bland said. "It helps them explore the different ways they can cover that cost. Cost can be viewed on a monthly, annual or total degree period. It also provides information about scholarship availability, student loans and other financial aid options available to assist in paying for school." The new calculator can be found at [www.iccms.edu/npc](http://www.iccms.edu/npc).

## Student honors nominations opening soon

ALEA HUDSON  
*Chieftain Staff*

Itawamba Community College's Student Activities Department will soon be accepting nominations for the prestigious Hall of Fame and Mr. and Miss ICC. Faculty, staff, student organizations and athletic teams are encouraged to nominate students who exemplify ICC's core values through leadership, academics and college

involvement, according to Ana Brooke Stephens, coordinator.

"We're looking for students who demonstrate exceptional leadership, involvement and are making a positive impact at ICC," Stephens said.

Faculty, staff and student groups may each nominate one male and one female student for Mr. and Miss ICC with the final selection deter-

mined through interviews and a student vote on the myTribe platform.

Hall of Fame nominations, which are open to faculty and staff, seek students who excel academically and contribute to college life.

Stephens said that the President's Cabinet will select 12 honorees from the nominated students with additional representation added by the Student Honors Selec-

tion Committee if needed.

She noted that official announcement dates will be provided later.

To submit nominations, use the Mr. and Miss ICC and Hall of Fame forms.

Stephens said that the awards "honor students whose dedication uplifts the ICC community."

For more information, contact Stephens at [abstephens@iccms.edu](mailto:abstephens@iccms.edu).

## Pathways to begin in January at Belden

*Staff Reports*

Several pathways classes will begin in January at the ICC Belden Center.

They include Food Management Certification, Jan. 13-Feb. 7, Mon-

day-Friday, 8:30 a.m.-3 p.m.; Certified Nursing Assistant, Jan. 13-Mar. 26, Mondays and Wednesdays, 5-9 p.m.; Medical Administrative Assistant, Jan. 13-Apr. 9, Mondays, 5-9 p.m. plus additional online assign-

ments; Medical Assistant, Jan. 13-May 8, Monday, Tuesday and Thursday, 6-9 p.m.; Business Office Specialist, Jan. 14-May 8, Tuesdays and Thursdays, 5-9 p.m.; and EMT Basic, Jan. 14-May 8, Tuesdays and

Thursdays, 5-10 p.m.

For more information about all classes or to register, call (662) 407-1537 or email [pathways@iccms.edu](mailto:pathways@iccms.edu).

# It's not too late to register!



**College**  
CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**SPRING 2025**

- Jan. 6** Offices open at 8 a.m.  
Open Registration, Tupelo, 4-7 p.m.
- Jan. 7** Open Registration, Fulton, 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m.; Tupelo, 8 a.m.-6 p.m.
- Jan. 8** Open Registration - Fulton and Tupelo 8 a.m.-5 p.m.
- Jan. 13** First day of class for traditional full-term day/night and traditional first eight-week classes
- Jan. 14** Last day for students to self-register for traditional full-term day/night and traditional first eight-week classes
- Jan. 15-17** Late registration available through Advising Center for traditional full-term day/night classes
- Jan. 20** Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day Holiday for students and employees
- Jan. 21** First day of class for eLearning full-term and eLearning first eight-week classes
- Jan. 22** Last day to add eLearning first eight-week classes
- Feb. 17** Presidents' Day holiday for students and employees
- Feb. 20** Summer 2025 and fall 2025 class schedule available
- Feb. 21** Last day to drop classes with a 'W' through excessive absences or withdrawal from classes for traditional first eight-week classes
- Feb. 24** First day of student advising for summer 2025 and fall 2015
- Feb. 26** Last day to drop classes with a 'W' through excessive absences or withdrawal from classes for eLearning first eight-week classes
- Feb. 28** Progress reports due for traditional full-term day/night and eLearning full-term classes
- Last day to register for participation in commencement
- Mar. 4** Last day to add traditional second eight-week classes
- Mar. 5-6** Final exams for traditional first eight-week classes
- Mar. 7** Grades due at noon for traditional first eight-week classes
- Mar. 10-13** Final exams for eLearning first eight-week classes
- Mar. 10-14** Spring Break for students and employees

**For more information  
and updates  
on the fall schedule, go to  
[www.iccms.edu](http://www.iccms.edu)**

**Most Beautiful pageant  
last chance deadline  
is Jan. 24, 3 p.m.**

*Staff Reports*

Itawamba Community College's Most Beautiful Pageant 2025 is scheduled for Feb. 25 in the W.O. Benjamin Fine Arts Center auditorium at the Fulton Campus.

According to Dr. Edana Nail, sponsor, the last chance registration deadline is Jan. 24 at 3 p.m.

For more information, email [travel@iccms.edu](mailto:travel@iccms.edu).



**Participants in ICC's recent toolbox presentation to PMT students include recipients and ICC representatives, from left, Justin Carwile, Colten Winter, Cole Nichols, Caleb Johnson, Parker Rogers, Tyrus Lowe, instructor Jerry Pettigrew, MSC Metal Cutting Specialist Ricky Pennington, Dylan Bramlitt, Landon Talley, Trent Rowan, Dean of Career Education Dylan Baldwin and Jonathan Whitt.**

**PMT students receive toolboxes  
courtesy of Haas Foundation**

*Staff Reports*

Students in ICC's Precision Machining Technology program have new toolboxes, courtesy of a generous grant by the Gene Haas Foundation.

Among the items in the five-drawer steel tool roller cabinet are a micrometer set; caliper; steel rule; tape measure; adjustable wrench; hex key, drill bit and L-handle sets; hammer; sharpening stone and flat file.

"We would like to thank the Gene Haas Foundation for their generous contribution and support of our program and for the difference the toolboxes will make not only in the success of our students but also when they graduate and enter the workforce," said instructor Jerry Pettigrew. The students will be allowed to keep them as a gift from the Foundation. "In addition, we appreciate MSC Industrial Supply Co. for their assistance in putting together this starter toolbox for our students." MSC is a leading North American distributor of a broad range of metalworking and maintenance, repair and operations products and services.

Recipients include Caleb Johnson, Cole Nichols, Parker Rogers, all of Blue Springs; Tyrus Lowe of

Columbus; Colten Winter of Houlika; Dylan Bramlitt, Jonathan Whitt, both of Pontotoc; Trent Rowan of Saltillo; Justin Carwile of Thaxton; and Landon Talley of Tupelo.

"The toolbox and tools provided will allow me to complete any job I come across in the shop," Cole Nichols said. "They are really a great head start to obtaining all the tools I will need for the remainder of my career." Caleb Johnson agrees, "Thank you to everyone involved with supplying us with these toolboxes. Every tool that was given is used daily by me and will make my career a little bit easier having the right tools for each job."

"The (Gene Haas) Foundation's goal is to help students attain skills in the machining industry," according to a letter received with the \$20,000 grant check. "We do this by providing scholarships for CNC machine technology students and also by providing students with the experience of competing in team skills competitions that highlight design, engineering and manufacturing with CNC-machined parts as a primary component."

In 1999, Gene Haas formed the foundation, which bears his name

because he grew up with a strong social conscience instilled by his family. It was initially designed to fund the needs of the local community. Haas Automation is now a billion dollar company. The focus of the foundation has shifted to the current outreach and methodology, and its purpose is to introduce students to careers in machine technology and manufacturing, to build skills in the machining industry and to help military veterans enroll in programs that train them to become skilled machinists.

ICC's Precision Machining Technology program is designed to prepare individuals for various-level positions in precision high-tech manufacturing. Part of the instruction and practice in manufacturing techniques and processes are standard conventional machining, computer-numerical-control machining and computer-aided design and manufacturing. Students develop skill sets that are valued by manufacturers nationwide and validated by national accrediting agencies such as the National Institute for Metalworking Skills and the National Association of Manufacturers.

**Belhaven to provide seamless pathway  
to elementary education degree**

*Staff Reports*

Belhaven University of the Mississippi Association of Community Colleges have signed an agreement that provides Mississippi Community College students a seamless pathway to earning their Bachelor of Science degree in Elementary Teacher Education.

Effective immediately, the agreement allows students with an Associate of Arts degree from any MACC institution to transfer directly into Belhaven University, where the AA degree will fulfill the first two years of the University's Elementary Teacher Education Preparation program.

"This articulation agreement represents our steadfast commit-

ment to creating seamless pathways for student success," said Belhaven University Provost Dr. Audrey Kelleher. "By fostering collaboration between the Mississippi Association of Community Colleges and Belhaven University, we empower students to achieve their educational goals. Together, we are strengthening the bridge to higher education and enriching opportunities for learners across Mississippi."

The partnership includes a comprehensive transfer and course equivalency guide that guarantees the transferability of applicable credits. MACC students who meet all admission requirements and follow

the recommended programs of study will be eligible for direct admission to Belhaven University.

One of the agreement's central goals is to facilitate smooth transitions for students pursuing a teaching career in elementary education. Those completing an AA degree with a 3.0 GPA or higher can transfer directly into Belhaven's Elementary Teacher Education Preparation program without any loss of credits. This ensures future educators have a streamlined path prepared and equipped for success.

Dean of the School of Education Dr. David Hand said, "With the on-

going shortage of elementary teachers in Mississippi, this agreement is designed to simplify the transfer process for teacher candidates from community colleges into our Teacher Educator Preparation program. Our shared goal is to prepare more qualified teachers to help address the critical need for teachers in our state."

"This agreement underscores our shared commitment to expanding access to higher education and supporting student achievement," Dr. Kelleher added. "By working together, we're making it easier than ever for Mississippi students to reach their academic and professional aspirations."



Meeting Room  
CLUB NEWS & CALENDAR

PROFESSIONAL/SCHOLARLY

Alpha Delta Nu	alphadeltanu@iccms.edu
Educators Rising	educatorsrising@iccms.edu
Humanities Club	humanitiesclub@iccms.edu
ICC Art Club	artclub@iccms.edu
ICC Honors College	honors@iccms.edu
MOSA	mosa@iccms.edu
Nurses Christian Fellowship	necf@iccms.edu
PEAK Club	peak@iccms.edu
Phi Theta Kappa	PTKFulton@iccms.edu
	PTKTupelo@iccms.edu
Sigma Kappa Delta	SKD@iccms.edu
Skills USA	skillsusa@iccms.edu
STEM Club	stemclub@iccms.edu
SOTA (Occupational Ther.)	sota@iccms.edu
The Business Council	council@iccms.edu
The Global Experience	travel@iccms.edu

COLLEGE-BASED

Archery Club	archery@iccms.edu
Bass Club	bassclub@iccms.edu
Chieftain (Newspaper)	chieftain@iccms.edu
Disc Golf Club	discgolf@iccms.edu
eSports Club	esports@iccms.edu
Fashion Tribe	fashiontribe@iccms.edu
Indian Delegation	delegate@iccms.edu
MANUP	manup@iccms.edu
Mirror (Yearbook)	mirror@iccms.edu
Orientation Leaders	orientation@iccms.edu
Student Activities Board	SAB@iccms.edu
Student Government Assn.	SGAFulton@iccms.edu
	SGATupelo@iccms.edu

FINE ARTS PERFORMING

All-American Band	band@iccms.edu
CenterStage	centerstage@iccms.edu
Choir and Chamber Singers	choir@iccms.edu
Color Guard	colorguard@iccms.edu
Concert Ensembles	band@iccms.edu
Film Club	filmclub@iccms.edu
Indianettes	indianettes@iccms.edu
Jazz Ensemble	jazz@iccms.edu
Pom Squad	pomsquad@iccms.edu
Steel Drum Band	band@iccms.edu
Theatre Productions	theatre@iccms.edu
Woodwind Ensembles	woodwinds@iccms.edu

RELIGIOUS ORGANIZATIONS

Baptist Student Union	bsu@iccms.edu
Fellowship of Christian Athletes	FCA@iccms.edu
Nurses Christian Fellowship	NCF@iccms.edu
Wesley Foundation	wesley@iccms.edu

For more information  
on ICC clubs  
and organizations,  
[www.iccms.edu](http://www.iccms.edu).

2024 Fall  
Exam Schedule

MONDAY/WEDNESDAY  
Day Classes

8/8:15/8:25 a.m.	Dec. 11	8:10 a.m.
9:25 a.m.	Dec. 11	10:15 a.m.
		12:15 p.m.
10:50 a.m.	Dec. 12	8-10 a.m.
12:10/12:35 p.m.	Dec. 11	1-3 p.m.

TUESDAY/THURSDAY  
Day Classes

8/8:25 a.m.	Dec. 10	8:10 a.m.
9:25 a.m.	Dec. 10	10:15 a.m.
		12:15 p.m.
10:50 a.m.	Dec. 12	10:15 a.m.
		12:15 p.m.
12:35 p.m.	Dec. 10	1-3 p.m.
2:25 p.m.	Dec. 13	1-3 p.m.

NIGHT CLASSES

Regular Meeting Night/  
Final Exam Date

Monday	Dec. 9
Tuesday	Dec. 10
Wednesday	Dec. 11
Thursday	Dec. 12

A complete  
examination schedule  
available  
at [www.iccms.edu](http://www.iccms.edu).



**Celebrating Tennessee Valley Authority's \$20,000 contribution to ICC's STEM program and Trading Post include, front from left, Amy Tate, TVA; Scott Hendrix, Tombigbee Electric Power Association; Martha Swindle, TVA; Heather McCormick, Mathematics Division chair and STEM lead; Abby Pham, STEM Club secretary; back, Jim Ingram, director of Institutional Advancement; Braydyn Ward, Trading Post student representative; Alivia Harris, Trading Post president; Wes May, STEM Club president; Dr. Jada Mills, Natural Science Division chair and STEM lead; Chad Wilson, TVA and ICC School of STEM advisory board; Bradley Howard, Computer Science Division chair and STEM lead; Michael Upton, director of Advancement; Rosalie Keith, STEM Club vice president and Nathan Ward, Trading Post sponsor.**

TVA contribution to benefit  
School of STEM, Trading Post

Staff Reports

Itawamba Community College's School of STEM and its Trading Post will benefit from a recent \$20,000 contribution from the Tennessee Valley Authority.

"The School of STEM is very excited about the TVA donation," said Heather McCormick, Mathematics Division chair and STEM lead. "Through field trips, student research and special speakers, this donation will support our study of clean water and energy as we explore conservation in our area and encourage our community to be good stewards of our natural resources."

"TVA is proud to support both the Itawamba Community College School of STEM and the Trading Post," said Amy Tate, regional executive for the Southwest Region of TVA. "This investment in the future workforce is invaluable, and we are incredibly grateful to partner with ICC in preparing our students for future job opportunities and success right here in Mississippi."

The School of STEM will use its gift to support students through a variety of activities such as field trips, speakers, research and campus/location projects and STEM

student support. ICC's School of STEM includes programs for Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics, STEM Club and experiential learning.

Funds designated for the Trading Post will allow the student-led resource to fully restock supplies to serve ICC students in need. It has evolved from a food pantry to provide essential items to students at Fulton, Tupelo and Belden, where they can request in advance and pick up from specified lockers.

"This generous gift from TVA will play a vital role in our Trading Post's ability to serve our community," said Nathan Ward, coordinator. "The Trading Post is a cornerstone resource for our college, and this support will help us continue meeting the important needs of our ICC students."

"It is an honor for Tombigbee (Electric Power Association) to partner with our communities to try to better the way of life for those around us," said Scott Hendrix, chief executive officer. "This has been our mission from the beginning to enrich lives through power, fiber or in this case, outreach. We are proud to work with TVA to support ICC. What better

thing than to invest in our youth?"

"Itawamba Community College is extremely grateful for the Tennessee Valley Authority and Tombigbee Electric Power Association for this significant contribution that will make a difference in the lives of many of our students who are now able to explore STEM areas and are now seeing evidence of its translation into more majors and more graduates in these fields," said ICC President Dr. Jay Allen. "And the gift to ICC's Trading Post will immediately impact the lives of our students who struggle with food insecurity and need the basics of living to succeed."

Last year's support from TVA allowed the School of STEM to create a special studies course with a Weather Balloon research opportunity as well as the purchase of a planetarium for use by STEM courses.

In September 2021, ICC was selected as one of the winning colleges in the American Association of Community Colleges' Mentor-Links: Advancing Technological Education program, which was the catalyst for STEM activities.



**On National STEM Day, Nov. 8, ICC STEM Club members and Forestry students listened to guest speakers during a field trip to Sky Lake Boardwalk in Belzoni. Funds from the Tennessee Valley Authority donation were utilized for the experience.**



## Want To Know More?

### FULTON CAMPUS

Information on	Contact
Academic Honors.....	Admissions
Activities Calendar .....	V.P. of Student Services
Admissions/Records .....	Admissions
Advanced Placement .....	V.P. of Instructional Services
Athletics .....	Athletic Director
Band .....	Band Director
Books/Supplies .....	Bookstore
Career Planning .....	Adviser/Advising Center
Car Registration Decals .....	Campus Police
Change of Adviser/Major .....	Advising Center
Change in Curriculum .....	Adviser/Student Affairs
Counseling .....	Student Affairs
Counseling (Personal).....	V.P. of Student Services
Course Placement.....	V.P. of Instructional Services
Evaluation of Credits .....	Admissions
Examinations .....	Instructor
Faculty Office Hours .....	Instructor
Graduation Req.....	Admissions
Housing .....	Director of Housing
I.D. Cards .....	Library
Intramurals/Activities .....	Coor. of Student Activities
Library .....	Director of Libraries
Log-Ins/PINs .....	TIS Help Desk
Parking .....	Campus Police
Part-Time Jobs .....	Student Affairs
Placement Testing.....	Student Affairs
Publicity/Publications .....	Community Relations
Registration .....	Admissions
Schedule Changes .....	Adviser
Schedule Planning .....	Adviser
Scholarships .....	Financial Aid
Student Aid/Work Study .....	Financial Aid
Student Government .....	Coor. of Student Activities
Student Organizations.....	Sponsors
Summer School.....	Coor. of Student Activities
	V.P. of Instructional Services
Testing (Career).....	Career Center
Transcripts .....	Admissions
Tuition, Fees, Deferrals .....	Business office
Use of Campus Property .....	V.P. of Student Services
Veterans Affairs .....	Financial Aid

### TUPELO CAMPUS

Admissions/Records .....	Student Affairs
Advanced Placement Credit ..	VP, Instructional Services
Books and Supplies .....	Bookstore
Career Planning.....	Adviser/Career Center
Car Registration/Decals .....	Campus Police
Counseling .....	Student Affairs
Evaluation of Credits .....	Admissions
I.D. Cards .....	Library
Job Placement.....	Career Center
Library .....	Library
Log-Ins/PINs .....	TIS Help Desk
Parking .....	Campus Police
Registration/Early-Reg .....	Student Affairs
Schedule Planning .....	Student Affairs
Scholarships .....	Financial Aid
Student Activities .....	Coor. of Student Activities
Student Aid.....	Financial Aid
Student Government .....	Coor. of Student Activities
Transcripts .....	Student Affairs
Tuition and Fees.....	Business office
Veterans Affairs .....	Financial Aid

### BELDEN CENTER

Adult Ed./High School Equivalency .....	Audra Perry
Career Education.....	Dylan Baldwin
Continuing Education .....	Josh Gammill
WIOA.....	Brad Gates
Workforce.....	Barry Emison

**Contact information available  
at [www.iccms.edu](http://www.iccms.edu)  
by clicking on the area of interest  
or by searching  
the college directory  
at the same location.**

## Calliope includes student work

Chieftain Staff

The work of several area students will be featured in The Calliope during the 2025 spring semester at Itawamba Community College.

The poets and their work include

Holly Edge, Mantachie, *Lingering Tune*  
Sharlee Shumpert, Mooreville, *I Am Ambitious*  
Abigael Cowsert, Myrtle, *Crickets Never Sleep*  
Tytianna Brooks, Nettleton, *Solaced Thinking*  
VaShawna Fleming, New Albany,  
*To Love Like Jesus*  
Sara Davis, Smithville, *Preacher Man*  
Michaela Georges, Tupelo, *The World is Ablaze*  
Vidhi Patel, Tupelo, *The Perfect Gift*  
James Ross, Tupelo, *Pieces of You*  
Teneshia Shells, Tupelo, *Wisdom*

The Calliope is Itawamba Community College's literary magazine.

Editors are ICC art instructor Shawn Whittington of Saltillo, art; and English instructor Keith Morris of Tupelo, poetry.



The work of Jackson artist Ming Donkey was on display at the W.O. Benjamin Fine Arts Center gallery at the Fulton Campus recently. A reception to meet the artist closed the show on Wednesday.

## ‘Red, White, and You’ featured works of Ming Donkey

### Staff Reports

A reception last week honored Jackson artist Ming Donkey, whose works were on display in the W.O. Benjamin Fine Arts Center through last Wednesday.

The exhibition featured a multi-media installation combining wall hangings, video and audio media. In his words, “Red, White & You” offers a visual exploration of contemporary capitalism’s impact on community and identity in America. The title references the American flag, symbolizing freedom and liberty, while reflecting on the ways emotions are manipulated and desires manufactured in our society. In a world increasingly divided into opposing factions, we find ourselves grappling

with a growing sense of disconnection and alienation.”

At the core of the exhibit was Ming’s “worker” character, an “everyman” avatar representing the nameless individuals who collectively seek their own version of Niagara - a metaphor for escape from our current realities, pursued by any means necessary. This figure highlights the excesses of a capitalistic culture and evokes Huxley’s notion of “soma,” a distraction many embrace in their relentless search for fulfillment.

By employing marketing strategies and production techniques such as branding and commercial printing, this exhibit underscored the relationship between form and

concept. Through those methods, Ming challenged viewers to confront the complexities of our consumer-driven existence.

He earned an MFA degree in Electronic Visualization and a BFA with a dual focus in studio art and graphic design. He has taught at Mississippi State University, the University of Arkansas at Little Rock and Jackson Public Schools and has worked as a graphic artist and illustrator for the University of Mississippi Medical Center and Mississippi State University.

He has received numerous awards and commissions across various sectors, including retail, film and events.

## Is changing majors an option?

### KENNA GRANT

Chieftain Staff

Changing majors is a common phenomenon among college students.

According to Mande Miller, dean of Advising and the Tupelo Campus, many “students change their major twice because it is difficult to decide on a career path at an age when you are still learning who you are.” There are several reasons college students change majors. Among those Miller lists as the most common include: 1) the student has lost interest or the content differed from their expectations, 2) the student found another interest they are passionate about pursuing, 3) the student didn’t know what area to explore, and their initial major was chosen by someone else.



Director of Advising Lori Little assists a student in this file photo.

The decision to change majors can happen anytime during the fall and spring semesters, so there is no deadline. However, upon request, changes will be updated after February 1 and September 1 for future school terms. Miller says there are various reasons changes are finalized after these dates - some include impeding a student’s academic

success and alterations in their financial aid.

Miller notes that General Studies is the default for students who are undecided. If a student decides on an area of interest after the end of the first semester, the Advising and Career Center will move the student to the appropriate School of Academics.

Students seeking to change their major can do so in myTribe using

the following procedure: 1) log in to myTribe portal with username and password, 2) select School Services, 3) select Student Services, 4) select change major, 5) use the dropdown arrow to choose a new major, 6) select the reason for change, 7) click submit. Students interested in changing their major in person may visit the Advising Centers on either the Tupelo or Fulton campuses.

Once a student has submitted their request, the changes will be processed within 24-48 hours, Miller said. A confirmation email will be sent to the student’s ICC account with the new major and the adviser assignment. The new adviser assignment will also be reflected in myTribe and the ICC app.



## Helping hands

**Itawamba Community College’s Associate Degree Nursing students Chandler Bogan, Tonja Brassfield and Brooke Lashley pose with Boys and Girls Club director Evie Story, right, after the group volunteered at a benefit cookout. - Photo furnished**





Representatives from both Itawamba Community College and The W participate in signing a Memorandum of Understanding to offer an undergraduate program of study that will lead to a bachelor's degree in elementary education or special education from the School of Education at The W at the ICC Fulton Campus. They include, seated, from left, ICC Vice President of Instructional Services Dr. Michelle Clouse, ICC President Dr. Jay Allen, The W President Nora Miller, The W Provost/Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs Scott Tollison; back, ICC Education Department Chair Dr. Chris Cox, ICC Dean of Academic Instruction Chris Stevenson and The W Dean of the School of Education Dr. Martin Hatton.

# ICC, The W sign MOU for undergrad program

Staff Reports

Itawamba Community College and Mississippi University for Women signed a memorandum of understanding to offer an undergraduate program of study that will lead to a bachelor's degree in elementary education or special education from the School of Education at The W.

STRONG COMMITMENT

"We are excited to announce this partnership with ICC that strengthens our commitment to providing access and new pathways for our students," said W President Nora Miller. "Together we are dedicated to fostering academic growth and preparing teachers for their classrooms."

"This agreement will allow our students to now have an opportunity to transfer their credits and work toward a bachelor's degree at MUW in a discipline in which they are truly

passionate," said ICC President Dr. Jay Allen. "This degree opportunity recognizes the value of both elementary and special education degrees offered at Mississippi's community colleges and the impact they are making not only on Mississippi's workforce but to provide an unparalleled foundation for our children in the state and beyond. This allows our previous, current and future elementary education or special education majors a natural progression for post-ICC educational endeavors while transferring academic credits."

SEAMLESS TRANSITION

Both ICC and The W advisers will collaborate to ensure seamless transition between programs. The W's School of Education offers students the ability to complete a bachelor's degree in elementary education online with the expectation of fieldwork, which will be available for

students complete in a local school, potentially where a student may want to teach. The W accepts up to 90 transfer credit hours toward the 120 credit hours required for a bachelor's degree.

EXCELLENT OPPORTUNITY

"The MOU with MUW is an excellent opportunity for our students to have a smooth transition from ICC's School of Education into MUW's School of Education," said Dr. Chris Cox, Education Department chair. "There is a big need for quality educators, especially in elementary and special education in our area and state. This partnership is another step in ensuring that ICC is helping to produce great educators that will not only help eliminate the teacher shortage but also make a major impact on our local communities. We are excited about this opportunity and hope to continue to find ways to

partner with our local universities."

ACHIEVING SUCCESS

"We've been very successful in helping students onboard to teacher education at The W. We want them to get to know us early, complete key courses as soon as possible and move seamlessly from completion of their associate's degree to starting their bachelor's teacher education program with us," said Dr. Martin Hatton, dean of the School of Education at The W. "The MOU represents our commitment to work together to make that happen to each student transferring into a teacher education program at The W."

In 2021, ICC and The W signed an MOU to provide educational opportunities for students who are earning an associate's degree in early childhood technology to have the opportunity to complete a bachelor's degree at The W.



## It's not too late! Winterize your vehicle

Staff Reports

It's been a long hot summer that has extended into fall. With cooler temperatures, batteries have started to cause issues, so it's time to ensure that our vehicles are winterized before the thermometer continues to plummet.

According to Itawamba Community College's Automotive Technology program director Brad Crowder, it's best to have your car serviced by a professional for winter conditions. That means to have its battery and coolant tested, inspect the brakes and check belts, hoses, spark plugs, wires and cables. "Battery power decreases as the temperature drops, meaning that it takes more power to start

your car in the winter," Crowder said. As far as coolant, the recommended ratio is between 50/50 and 70/30 of antifreeze to water. "Ask your technician what antifreeze should be used for your vehicle and the appropriate coolant-to-water ratio to prevent against corrosion and potential freezing."

Additional vital steps to take in winterization include inspecting your tires, changing the oil and wiper blades, keeping the washer fluid full and the gas tank at least half full, the front and rear window defrosters in working order and packing a winter safety kit, Crowder said.

"Inspect the tread depth of your tires," Crowder advised. "To determine whether there is

enough tread on your vehicle, insert a penny into one of the grooves between the treads. Lincoln's head needs to be facing you, and his head should be upside down. Do this in 10-15 areas of the tire. If you see all of Lincoln's head, the tread depth is less than 2/32 of an inch, meaning the tire is worn down and you must replace your tires. Checking the tire pressure could warn of a severely deflated tire that could result in a blowout, leaving you stranded on the highway for hours in the bitter cold."

Crowder said that lighter weight oil is important to start an engine in cold weather as is a strong battery. - See Winterization Tips, page eight.



# ACTIVITIES CALENDAR

## DECEMBER 9

*Merry Monday*  
*Fulton Campus*  
*Various Locations - all day*  
*Kindness Cups with SGA*  
*Tupelo Campus, Academic/Student Center*  
*7:30-9 a.m.*

## DECEMBER 10

*Tech Tuesday*  
*Library - Fulton*  
*1-4 p.m.*

## DECEMBER 11

*Tech Wednesday*  
*Library - Tupelo*  
*1-4 p.m.*

## DECEMBER 12

*Practical Nursing*  
*Commencement Ceremony*  
*W.O. Benjamin Fine Arts Center*  
*Auditorium - Fulton*  
*Noon*

## DECEMBER 17-JANUARY 6

*Christmas/New Years Holiday*  
*Students/Employees*

## MARCH 18

*STEM Club meeting*  
*Soft Skills Workshop - Interview Tips*  
*Natural Science 110 - Fulton*  
*2:15 p.m.*

## APRIL 1

*ICC Small Ensembles Concert*  
*Fulton Campus - W.O. Benjamin*  
*Fine Arts Center auditorium*  
*7 p.m.*

## APRIL 8

*IC C Choir and Chamber Concert*  
*Fulton Campus - W.O. Benjamin*  
*Fine Arts Center auditorium*  
*7 p.m.*

## MAY 1

*CenterStage Concert*  
*Fulton Campus - W.O. Benjamin*  
*Fine Arts Center auditorium*  
*7 p.m.*

For more information  
[www.iccms.edu](http://www.iccms.edu)

## Winterization tips from page seven

“Check the owner’s manual to determine the proper engine oil weight.” He advised that wiper blades should be changed if they look dry and brittle or leave streaks of liquid on the windshield.

“Check the windshield fluid tank frequently,” Crowder cautioned. “Make sure the liquid selected will not freeze when the temperature hits zero or minus 20 degrees Fahrenheit. Carry a gallon of windshield fluid so you can quickly refill the container under the hood.”

Little things like keeping gas in the tank and ensuring that window defrosters are in working order should be a priority as well. “A full tank could be the only thing that keeps you warm until help arrives if you’re ever stranded. And being

unable to see forward and behind could create unsafe driving conditions.”

Crowder said that a winter safety kit could include matches or a lighter, first aid kit, flares, flashlight/batteries, ice scraper, non perishable food/beverages, warm clothing and/or blankets, jumper cables, extra washer fluid/antifreeze, some basic hand tools and your cell phone and charger.

“It’s important to know what to do before you are in an emergency in case you every get stuck,” Crowder emphasized.

“However, if you’re stuck, don’t leave your car for risk of losing it; don’t run your car for long periods of time to prevent carbon monoxide poisoning and put your dome light on to attract attention.”

# Metallica grant benefits ICC students



A \$50,000 grant from Metallica’s All Within My Hands foundation is significantly impacting the lives and futures of more than 50 Itawamba Community College career education and health sciences students.

### SELECTION

They were selected based on an application process, which included information about the difference that receiving the scholarship will make in continuing their educational journey, according to Dylan Baldwin, dean of Career Education, who wrote the proposal.

“This significant opportunity is making the difference in enabling many of the recipients to continue enrollment in their programs,” Baldwin noted. “Sometimes we don’t realize the struggles that students have to overcome to earn their ICC degrees to ensure a better future not only for themselves, but also in many instances, their families.”

### THEIR STORIES

Among the student stories are, “My husband and I are struggling with money because of doctor bills...I am a 40-year-old veteran, 80 percent disabled trying to do something different with my life, something that’s not as physically hard labor as I’m used to...I am a 4.0 honor roll student, have maintained a 4.0 GPA since being in college and have exhausted 80 percent of my Pell Grant...This scholarship will benefit me in multiple ways, including easing the financial burden on my parents. They make just enough for us to get by, but too much for financial aid.”

“With an hour drive to school every day, gas goes quick, and the prices aren’t cheap, so with the money from this scholarship, I could focus more on my studies and not have to work every day just to make sure I won’t break down on the way to school,” said Skylar Breland of Ripley, Respiratory Care Technology major.

“This scholarship would be incredibly beneficial for me as it would help ease the financial burden of attending college, especially as my family is already managing the costs of my sister’s education at the

same time,” said Maggie Caldwell of Pontotoc, who is majoring in Occupational Therapist Assistant Technology. “My dad didn’t have the opportunity to attend college, so I’m striving to set a new standard for our family by pursuing higher education. I am a dedicated and involved student, consistently working hard to maintain my academic standing while also participating in extracurricular activities.”

Respiratory Care Technology major Krista Ihle of Fulton reinforces the importance of alleviating a college student’s financial burden, even though ICC’s tuition is among the lowest in the state. “This scholarship will provide much-needed financial relief, allowing me to focus more on my studies rather than worrying about tuition fees or living expenses. With the support of this scholarship, I can pursue my academic and professional goals without the added stress of financial hardship. Ultimately, this scholarship will empower me to succeed in my education and make a meaningful contribution to my community and beyond.”

And the stories would fill pages and tug at the heartstrings like this one. “My mother is a single parent to my brother and me and has worked as a surgical technologist throughout my high school years,” said Isabella Hayes of Pontotoc. “Last December during my freshman year of college, she decided to return to nursing school, meaning she’s now working part-time on weekends. The financial burden of paying for my education has been challenging for her, and receiving this scholarship would significantly ease that burden. It would allow her to focus more on her studies and less on the stress of financing my education, which would help avoid student loans. I am genuinely grateful for the opportunity this scholarship would provide for me and my mother.”

### THANK YOU

When the grant was announced just prior to the fall semester, ICC President Dr. Jay Allen said, “It is a tremendous honor for Itawamba

Community College to be selected as one of the continuing recipients of the prestigious All Within My Hands grant, which will significantly impact our career education programs and the lives of those who receive scholarships to pursue a pathway and their best start. It is another indication of the success of the College and reinforcement of the mission that students and their success are our top priority.”

### THE GRANT

ICC’s grant is focusing on recruiting underserved populations to enable individuals to attain job skills and opportunities to equip them for employment to better position them for success and a better future.

With the launch of year six, 18 new colleges have joined the roster of existing Metallica Scholars Initiative, which now has a presence in 60 colleges across all 50 United States and the territory of Guam. ICC, which is in year two, and Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College represent Mississippi.

### RECIPIENTS

Scholarship recipients include Sarah Coleman of **Amory**; Keaton Cager of **Baldwyn**; Katie May, Diana Reyes of **Booneville**; Claire Carter of **Bruce**; Kaitlyn Harris of **Caledonia**; Josie Nesom of **Columbus**; Luis Rojas of **Derma**; Kathryn Smith, Emily Speck, both of **Ecu**; Krista Ihle of **Fulton**; Rodney Hardy of **Gordo, Ala.**; Pablo Arce of **Holly Springs**; Shavar Gladney of **Houlka**; Latisha Hamilton, Graciela Soto-Juarez, Graylon Pulliam, Allaunah Tumblyn, all of **Houston**; Carlos Jones of **Okolona**; Liana Logan of **Oxford**; Maggie Caldwell, Joshua Campbell, Lauribeth Childers, Morgan Gunter, Isabella Hayes, Tristen Hargrove, Marlee Hoing, Anna Jenkins, Christine McKnight, all of **Pontotoc**; Skylar Breland of **Ripley**; Alantony Swinney of **Thaxton**; Breanna Deckley of **Tishomingo**; Nichola Hamner of **Tremont**; Saja Dawish, Amari Jamison, Timothy Russell, Justin Simmons, all of **Tupelo**; and Katrina Freely of **Water Valley**. - Staff Reports





## FYI

### MAKE A NOTE OF IT

#### JUST A REMINDER...

### Review lockdown procedures

ICC's faculty, staff and students are urged to review campus lockdown procedures.

"The procedures are meant to be very simple because at the point of a lockdown, the major concern is the safety of all of the individuals in the campus community," said Dr. Brad Boggs, vice president of student services.

Notifications will be communicated via ICC ALERT, email and the Emergency Information Web page.

Upon notification of campus lockdown, everyone must react immediately.

The procedures include

- 1) Lock all doors and windows.
- 2) Close all blinds.
- 3) Turn off lights.
- 4) Use room furnishings to barricade doors and as protection.
- 5) Everyone should sit on the floor, away from doors and windows.
- 6) Make no noise.
- 7) Remain in lockdown until it is cleared with a notice via ICC ALERT or the police/administrator gives te ALL CLEAR code.

In addition, these are procedures in the event of severe weather conditions or evacuation.

Individuals should check ICC's website, [www.iccms.edu](http://www.iccms.edu), for information. It's located under Campus Safety on the home page.

### Sign up for ICC ALERT

ICC provides a mass notification system called ICC ALERT.

Students, faculty and staff are encouraged to participate in the free service.



ICC ALERT has been utilized for inclement weather situations when classes and offices were closed due to snow and icing conditions and when storms threatened

the area.

To sign up to receive emergency messages through ICC ALERT: 1) Log on to the myTribe portal using your name and password; 2) Click ICC ALERT system in the link section on the bottom right; 3) Log in with your same username and password as myTribe to add/update your information.

For assistance with technical issues, contact the TIS Help Desk at (662) 862-8295 or via email at [helpdesk@iccms.edu](mailto:helpdesk@iccms.edu).

### Litter-free

Everyone is reminded to use trash receptacles for litter. It's up to all of us to show our pride by ensuring that all three locations are litter-free.

### No noise

Unnecessary noise is banned at Itawamba Community College, including loud music, yelling and screaming.

Students who are found guilty of noise violations will be fined, and the fine will double with each successive violation.

### Campus Police

ICC-Belden...662.687.2752  
ICC-Fulton...662.687.2750  
ICC-Tupelo...662.687.2751

For more information  
about ICC emergency  
procedures...  
[www.iccms.edu](http://www.iccms.edu)



Members of ICC's 2024-25 Fashion Tribe participate in one of many photo shoots, which are scheduled throughout the college year.

## Do YOU have a passion for fashion?

MATHAIUS MALLARD  
*Chieftain Staff*

Do you have a passion for fashion?

If you do, it's not too late to join the ICC Fashion Tribe for the 2025 spring semester.

According to CJ Adams, sponsor, it is for anyone who wants to be involved at ICC. Although the group primarily meets on the Fulton Campus, students from any of ICC's locations can become members.

Fashion Tribe provides opportunities for students to pursue fashion on many different levels such as modeling, hair and makeup, communication, photography, videography, social media and backstage set design. The photo shoots are spread out periodically throughout the year,



Adams said, including the spring show, the biggest photo shoot of the year.

Executives decide the photo shoots and the spring show themes every year, according to Adams.

They include Natalie Ryals of Kosciusko, Communications; Abbie McQuary of Myrtle, Com-

munications; Anna Kate Crenshaw of Smithville, Social Media; Killie Edwards of Fulton, Social Media; Braiden Holcombe of Vina, Ala., Backstage/Set; Zoe Valsamakis of Aberdeen, Backstage; Brianna Marino of Pearl, Recruiting; Emma Carolyne Wright of Amory, Modeling; and Maggie Kimble of Guntown, Hair/Makeup.

Adams said that the spring show, which is planned for April, involves many students as well as many hours of communication and ideas from executives. Fashion Tribe is currently the largest organization at ICC with 219 members.

Those interested in joining can email [fashiontribe@iccms.edu](mailto:fashiontribe@iccms.edu).

## Career Services is valuable resource

GRANT EDGER  
*Chieftain Staff*

A large part of community college for many students includes the process of deciding what they want to do and finding the best available avenues to pursue their goals.

Lucky for them, ICC has a Career Services Center, which serves as a resource for students in planning for careers once they graduate.

According to ICC's website, the Career Center serves as a supportive career planning resource for Itawamba Community College.

Some of the resources provided include résumé proofing, mock interviews and a career exploration course for students who are unsure or undecided on potential career possibilities.

The main goal of Career Services is to help students realize what is necessary for them to achieve their goals, according to Carla Garrett, academic adviser and career counselor.

"We strive to enhance students' academic experience by helping them make connections between academics and their future and career goals."

To help students learn more about their respective majors, Career Services brings in outside speakers for "Career Spotlights" that help teach students about opportunities within their field of study.

"Career Services also provides various classroom presentations, club/organization meetings and residence hall outreach as requested on topics such as choosing a major, interviewing skills, etiquette and preparation of employment documents," Garrett noted.

Each semester, Career Services offers career assessments so that students can look at their interests and skills to find an occupation that potentially matches them.

During the spring prior to graduation, Career Services offers mock interviews, where ICC alumni and business professionals help students practice their interview skills.

Career Services not only provides assistance in entering the workforce, but they also will often sponsor Transfer Fairs for students who plan to continue at a university after acquiring



Representatives from Blue Mountain Christian University participate in a transfer fair.

their associate's degree. Representatives from various colleges and universities participate in sessions at both the Fulton and Tupelo campuses to inform ICC students of their options and potential routes.

"By speaking with these visitors, students gain valuable information to help them navigate this process such as what applications are needed as well as what programs each university offers," Garrett said.

Career Services is continuing to build on their foundation to further help students, in-

cluding the purchase of "Focus 2 Career," an education program made for students to explore their interests and academic strengths through online assessments.

Career Services also plans to host an "opportunity fair" in fall 2025 to highlight ICC's departments and employees who work in those fields.

"We want to encourage students to participate in purposeful and meaningful experiences and opportunities that will help them become more employable," Garrett said.

# ICC...The BEST!



# ICC alum Evans advises Emerging Scholars



Itawamba Community College is an open admission, comprehensive, publicly supported two-year institution primarily serving Chickasaw, Itawamba, Lee, Monroe and Pontotoc counties, while also being responsive to the instructional and economic development needs of the region.

Itawamba Community College fulfills its mission through 1) College-parallel, technical and career programs to prepare students to transfer or enter the workforce; 2) Continuing education and workforce pathways for individuals striving for professional growth or personal enrichment; 3) Strategic partnerships to provide student opportunities, meet business and industry needs and promote economic development; 4) Adult education programs committed to increasing the literacy level of the adult population, providing self-improvement opportunities, workforce readiness and/or high school equivalency; 5) Resources, including financial, physical and technological to advance educational purpose as well as traditional and online instructional services, student support services and business management; 6) Recruitment and employment of qualified personnel as well as provide ongoing opportunities for leadership growth and success in educational, career and personal goals.

Candidates for admission to academic and career education programs may be admitted by diploma - students are required to present an official transcript from a high school accredited by the appropriate state or regional accreditation association; by completing the appropriate number of Carnegie units; by successfully completing an acceptable high school equivalency test - students are required to have an official copy of the high school equivalency transcript mailed to the Director of Admissions; by advanced standing (college transfer students). Students graduating without a regular diploma (Occupational Diploma or Special Education Diploma) must successfully complete an acceptable high school equivalency test or qualify under a Mississippi Ability to Benefit State Process in order to be eligible for admission to Itawamba Community College. Some career education programs may have selective criteria for admission.

Itawamba Community College is an equal opportunity institution. The College strictly prohibits discrimination in its educational programs and activities, employment practices and admissions processes on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, age, religion, ethnicity, pregnancy, sexual orientation, gender identity, genetic information, status as a U.S. veteran or other status protected by applicable law. For more information, contact the Vice President of Student Services, 602 West Hill Street, Fulton, MS 38843, 662.862.8271 or email TitleIXCoordinator@iccms.edu.

In compliance with Title IV of the Civil Rights Act of 1964; Title IX, Education Amendments of 1972; and Section 504, Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Itawamba Community College makes available its curricular and extracurricular programs and its facilities to every qualified person regardless of race, sex, color, creed, national origin or disability.

Itawamba Community College is accredited by the Southern Association of Community Colleges to award associate degrees. Contact the Commission on Colleges at 1866 Southern Lane, Decatur, Georgia 30033-4097 or call 404.670.4500 for questions about the accreditation of Itawamba Community College.

**www.iccms.edu**  
**662.862.8000**

**The  
BEST  
start here!**

## Staff Reports

Emerging Scholars who attended a special luncheon in their honor, Nov. 7, not only learned about the opportunities available, but also heard it from Itawamba Community College alumnus and Plantersville native Chloe Evans, who is a graduate of Nettleton High School.

“When I first walked through the doors of this campus (Fulton) in 2020, I never imagined the profound impact it would have on my life,” she said. “My first interview, headshot, research project and all-nighter happened here during my time at ICC. This college was my beginning, and I’m here today to reflect on the journey and to highlight how the accelerated academic and leadership opportunities at ICC have shaped not just my education, but also, my future.”

She was involved with nine student organizations, held leadership positions within five and completed more than 100 service hours, all while maintaining an almost perfect GPA. “This was possible because of the incredible support system that I found here. Faculty, staff and students are a family wanting the best for each other and supporting one another. ICC isn’t just a place to earn a degree - it’s a place to discover who you truly are. The instructors go above and beyond to engage with students on a personal level.”



**ICC alumnus and recent Mississippi State graduate Chloe Evans shares advice with Emerging Scholars.**

Evans noted that the leadership skills and academic discipline that she gained through Phi Theta Kappa and Honors College prepared her for transferring to Mississippi State University, where she graduated this year. In May, she became admissions coordinator at MSU’s College of Forest Resources.

“As I look back on my time at Itawamba Community College,” Evans said, “I’m filled with gratitude for the opportunities I was given. I realize that my time here didn’t just prepare me for academic challenges; it prepared me for life itself.” She encouraged participants to embrace a

growth mindset, set clear goals and lean into the challenges. “These lessons go beyond the classroom - they shape the way I approach every challenge I face. I encourage you to embrace every opportunity this college has to offer. Your journey after high school is just the beginning. The skills you develop now will serve you for the rest of your life.”

Those invited to the event, which was an opportunity to learn more about the academic and involvement opportunities to honor students at ICC, were area high school seniors with a 24+ ACT score.

## The next two weeks from page two

Time flies as it always does, and not even the holidays can stop it. This year, as you keep that in mind, let it motivate you to cherish the moments you have.

During these four weeks, take advantage of every opportunity to make memories that will transcend time’s limitations. Determine to turn off your cell phone, your computer or your television, and turn your attention to friends and family. I promise the world will continue to rotate even if you do not update your Facebook status for an entire week.

Throw a football back and forth with your little brother; play make believe with your little sister; shop and cook with your mother; go hunting or just talk with your father. Include your friends, your neighbors and your extended family. Use the break you have to make the memories that will sustain you when you can no longer spend time with others.

“Down to the village with a broomstick in his hand, run-

ning here and there all around the square, saying catch me if you can.”

Also, do not forget to play. Have fun this holiday season. Go ice skating. Catch up on your reading or devote some time to your favorite hobby.

This is a perfect chance for you to get a head start on your New Year’s resolution to lose weight. Run, dance, ride a bike or walk through the park and gaze at Christmas lights. You can spend this time in a stupor of eggnog and Charlie Brown reruns, or you can bundle up and play a pick-up game of basketball with your visiting cousins.

Whatever you do with your time, remember that life does not revolve around work. Accept this, live it and invite others to join you. Your mind and body will thank you.

“He led them down the streets of town, right to the traffic cop, and he only paused a moment when he heard them holler stop...”

Wonder at life this season. Live it to the fullest and sched-

ule plenty of time to play, but strive to do so responsibly. Take a page from Frosty and obey the law over the holidays.

Your time will be much more enjoyable if you spend it outside of a cell or a hospital room.

Play responsibly - you can party without provoking severe consequences - and encourage your peers to do the same.

*Frosty the Snowman had to hurry on his way, but he waved goodbye saying don’t you cry, I’ll be back again some day...*

Finally, when all is said and done, forge cheerfully ahead into the new year.

Come back to school reinvigorated and ready to take on another semester. Endless possibilities await you, so prepare to pursue them passionately.

Do not regret that the break has come to an end. Appreciate the time that you have been given, keeping in mind that, like Frosty, it will return quickly enough.

**Happy Holidays!!**





Itawamba Community College celebrated the Christmas season with the lighting of the Christmas tree at the Fulton Campus, an event sponsored by the Student Government Association, and the All-American Marching Band participated in multiple area parades, including Fulton's on Thursday night.



*It's beginning to look a lot like*  
**Christmas '24!**





# ICC Athletics on the Move

## CAMPUS SPORTS

CHIEFTAIN/Page 12.....December 9, 2024



## ICC's football Indians end season with 43-10 loss to Northwest

Staff Reports  
**NORTHWEST 43, ICC 10**

The Itawamba Community College football team's season came to an end after a 43-10 loss to No. 4 Northwest Mississippi Community College.

The Rangers used a dominant second half to pull away for the victory and secure the North Division championship.

Ty Davis threw for 221 yards and a touchdown with four interceptions on 20-of-39 passing. Tyran Mosely had seven catches for 69 yards, including a 37-yard touchdown reception.

Zech Pratt, Alex Dawkins and Dylan Rowsey each had an interception for the Indians. Eli Burciaga had a 36-yard field goal.

The Indians finished tied for second in the North Division with Holmes Community College and East Mississippi Community College. Holmes earned a spot in the playoffs after the conference's three-way tiebreaker rules.

After going 3-6 last season, the Indians finished 6-3 and led the conference in turnovers forced, interceptions, sacks, fumble recoveries and defensive touchdowns. They were also the only program in the state to have two players earn National Junior College Athletic Association Defensive Players of the Week.

**ICC 17, NORTHEAST 0**

ICC's Indians went on the road and beat Northeast Mississippi Community

College, 17-0, in MACCC North Division play.

The Indians set the tone early when Zae Davis returned the opening kickoff 62 yards to the Tigers' 36-yard line. Six plays later, Ty Davis found Tre Gunn on a five-yard touchdown pass to take a 7-0 advantage in the opening drive of the contest.

Davis connected with Tyran Mosley on a 26-yard pass to put the Indians up 13-0 at the 2:11 mark of the second quarter. Eli Burciaga added a 38-yard field goal to make it a 17-0 ballgame with 4:51 left in the third quarter.

Carson Langford forced Northeast to work with a long field throughout the night. He punted the ball eight times with six forcing the Tigers' offense to start inside the 20-yard line and two resulting in touchbacks.

The Indians had 244 yards of offense. Ty Davis connected on 20-of-30 passing for 181 yards and two touchdowns. Zae Davis caught nine passes for 68 yards with Mosley adding 52 yards on five carries, and Jaylen Foster had 25 yards on seven carries.

The defense had 14 tackles for loss, seven sacks and an interception to hold Northeast scoreless for the first time since 1996. Orel Gray recorded nine tackles with five and a half tackles for loss, three sacks and a forced fumble. Dylan Rowsey picked off a pass and returned it 14 yards to go along with seven tackles.



## ICC's Rowsey earns major MACCC honor



Staff Reports

Sophomore defensive back Dylan Rowsey has been named the Mississippi Association of Community Colleges Conference North Division Defensive Player of the Year.

Rowsey finished his sophomore season leading the Indians with four interceptions while picking up 50 total tackles, two of them for a loss. His four interceptions tied for third-

best in the MACCC and seventh best in the NJCAA.

Against Mississippi Delta, he racked up eight solo tackles and returned an interception for a 43-yard touchdown, a performance that earned recognition as MACCC and MJCAA Defensive Player of the Week.

His career stats include 107 total tackles, seven interceptions and two defensive touchdowns.

# #RollTribe



# Tribe talk

BILLY MILLENDER  
Chieftain Sports

At Itawamba Community College, the quality and accessibility of sports facilities can significantly impact the development and success of its athletic teams.

Well-maintained and modern facilities provide student-athletes with the resources to train and perform at their highest potential.

For example, access to up-to-date weight rooms, training areas and playing fields allows athletes to improve their skills and conditioning in a safe and effective environment. When teams have access to these resources, it enhances their physical development and boosts their confidence and morale, creating a positive atmosphere for competition and teamwork.

Further, a new sports infrastructure attracts prospective athletes, who are more likely to choose a college that invests in its programs. Facilities such as gymnasiums, locker rooms and practice areas represent a college's commitment to its athletes and their success. The quality of these spaces can influence recruitment efforts since potential students often seek colleges where they feel they will be academically and athletically supported.



Beyond recruitment, sports facilities also contribute to camaraderie and culture. Shared spaces for training and preparation foster a sense of unity and pride among athletes. The sense of belonging to a well-equipped team can motivate players to push themselves harder, building a competitive edge.

For ICC, enhancing sports facilities not only serves to improve performance on the field, but also helps cultivate a thriving, disciplined and well-rounded athletic community.

In the past few years, ICC has upgraded its athletic facilities, most recently the softball and tennis complex this fall; soccer complex in 2012 and coming soon, renovation of Cresap Field, which should be complete for the 2025 spring season opening pitch. Along with Eaton Field and the Davis Event Center, ICC has one of the finest athletic facilities for a community college, not only in Mississippi but in the entire southeastern United States.

If not for the foresight of current ICC President Dr. Jay Allen and his predecessors, hopes of upgraded facilities wouldn't be possible. Their vision not only ensures that we have the BEST facilities anywhere, but those that will attract the BEST student-athletes anywhere.

## ROLL TRIBE!



## NJCAA All-American

# ICC's Lexi Pendleton named to second team

### Staff Reports

Lexi Pendleton has been named to the National Junior College Athletic Association Division II All-America Second Team.

Pendleton made the most of her lone season with the Indians by recording the most kills in a single season with 355, averaging 3.26 per set. She also led the team with a .276 hitting percentage and posted a career-best 24 kills against Jones in the Region 23 semifinals.

When talking about the All-American recognition, Pendleton expressed her appreciation for her teammates and coaches.

"I'm so honored to have been named an All-American, especially in a program that has become as strong as it is," Pendleton



said. "I'm so thankful for my teammates, Coach Annie (McGregor), Coach Caroline (Smith) and thankful for God placing me in this situation as I came to ICC looking for a better volleyball experience, and I had just that."

McGregor said that her program was excited to have Pendleton for even just one season and spoke proudly of her accomplishments.

"Lexi left such a big mark on our program. She was an incredibly impactful player with her setting, her hitting, her survey, her passing, all of it," McGregor noted. "She was just a well-rounded player who was able to help us our tremendously on-and off-the-court. She was an amazing part of our program this year and a huge part of our success. So we're really excited to see her get the recognition for All-American."

Pendleton is the first ICC volleyball player to be named All-American.



ICC's A.J. Dent in recent action against Arkansas Mid-South.

## Dent earns NJCAA Player of the Week honors

### Staff Reports

ICC's A.J. Dent has been selected National Junior College Athletic Association Men's Basketball Player of the Week.

Dent was impressive in helping the Indians go 2-0 in the week's

action, averaging 23 points and 14 rebounds per game with a 69 shooting percentage. He recorded a career-high 31 points in ICC's 89-70 road victory at Calhoun, along with a career-best 20 rebounds. He also contributed 15

points and eight rebounds in the Indians' 88-58 win at ASU Mid-South.

Dent led the Indians the week of the honor with an average of 15 points per game, which was 13th in the MACCC.



Work is continuing on the renovation of Roy Cresap Field at the ICC Fulton Campus. It is expected to be open for the 2025 spring season.

## Itawamba Community College Sports...

### ON THE SCHEDULE

#### MEN'S BASKETBALL

12.9	Calhoun	7 p.m.
12.10	Shelton State	6 p.m.
1.07	@East Miss.	7:30 p.m.
1.13	Jones	7:30 p.m.
1.16	@Miss. Delta	7:30 p.m.
1.21	Northeast	7:30 p.m.
1.23	@Pearl River	7:30 p.m.
1.27	Coahoma	7:30 p.m.
1.30	@East Central	7:30 p.m.
2.3	Hinds	7:30 p.m.
2.10	@Meridian	7:30 p.m.
2.13	Miss. Gulf Coast	7:30p.m.

#### WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

12.9	Calhoun	5:30 p.m.
12.11	Columbia St.	5:30 p.m.
1.07	@ East Miss.	5:30 p.m.
1.13	Jones	5:30 p.m.
1.16	@ Miss. Delta	5:30 p.m.
1.21	Northeast	5:30 p.m.
1.23	@ Pearl River	5:30 p.m.
1.27	Coahoma	5:30 p.m.
1.30	@East Central	5:30 p.m.
2.3	Hinds	5:30 p.m.
2.10	@Meridian	5:30 p.m.
2.13	Miss. Gulf Coast	5:30 p.m.

#### GOLF

2.10	@Gulf Coast
2.11	@Gulf Coast
3.3	@Warrior Classic
3.4	@Warrior Classic
3.24	@ Lou Hart Invitational
3.25	@Lou Hart Invitational
4.7	@MACCC Championship
4.8	@MACCC Championship
10.29	@Pearl River 5/7 p.m.

For the most up-to-date schedules, LetsGoICC.com

Follow ICC athletics...LetsGoICC.com  
or on Twitter...@LetsGoICC





# Merry Christmas!

*from the ICC Chieftain staff...*

*Sydney Barber - Grant Edger - Shelby Franks*

*Kara Graham - Kenna Grant - Alea Hudson*

*Mathaius Mallard - Billy Millender - Sharlee Shumpert*

*Donna Thomas, adviser*